

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE YEAR 1944.

To the Urban District Council of Withnell.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure to present to you the Report for the year 1944 upon the health of the Urban District of Withnell. This is an interim Report. It is intended that any items omitted will be dealt with in a report at the termination of the War.

The general health of the population was good. There was no evidence indicating that health was adversely affected by War conditions either in adults or children.

A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district was 4,190 acres. The population figure at the census of 1931 was 3040.
The Rateable value was £12,507 and a penny rate produced £48.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
Legitimate	48	24	24	
Illegitimate	4	2	2	
	<u>52</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid. 1944 <u>138.1</u>
Stillbirths	<u>1</u>	<u>Nil.</u>		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
Deaths	<u>27</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	Death rate per 1,000 estimated population <u>225</u>

Deaths from puerperal causes.

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Death rate per 1,000 Total (live and still births)</u>
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis.	NIL	NIL
Other maternal causes	<u>NIL</u>	<u>NIL</u>
Total	<u>NIL</u>	<u>NIL</u>

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births	76
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	83
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	NIL
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	2
Deaths from Measles " "	NIL
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	NIL
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 yrs of age.	NIL

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

James Robertson. M.B., C.M., D.P.H.

Part-time Officer.

Remuneration - £80 per annum.

Sanitary Inspector.

Cyril Leach Gregson. M.I.H.E., M.S.I.A., C.R., San. I.

A part-time Officer holding the appointment of Surveyor.

Remuneration:- £130. per annum.



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No other Public Health Officers held office during the year.

Ambulance Facilities.

Arrangements for transport of cases of infectious disease have been made with the Chorley Joint Hospital Board. Transport of non-infectious cases was undertaken by private ambulance or by the ambulance of the hospital or neighbouring Authority in which the hospital is situated.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The raw upland surface water was supplied by the Liverpool Corporation. The Urban District Council has not control of the gathering grounds and prolonged storage was not provided. The condition of the water has been satisfactory.

The supply to a private house was condemned and the house is now on Town's supply.

Closet accommodation at the end of 1944.

Number of priority middens,	Nil
" "pail closets,	252
" dry ashpits (Excluding middens)	67
" moveable ashbins	785
" houses of the water carriage system	603
" fresh water closets	702
" waste water closets	41
" conversions (Pails to F.W. closets).	2

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of House Refuse was carried out by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry and tipped.

Sanitary Inspections in 1944.

This work was still curtailed in 1944. Thirty five premises were visited and seventy nine defects or nuisances discovered. The number of nuisances abated was sixty seven. Eleven informal notices and four Statutory, were served during the year.

Swimming Baths.

The Council owns the Public Baths. The Plunge Bath is 75 ft. by 25 ft. Slipper Baths are also provided. The Baths have been closed for the period of the War.

Schools.

The condition of the schools was generally satisfactory. All schools have now closet accommodation of the fresh water type.

D. HOUSING.

There were no new houses erected in 1944.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Dairies and cowsheds were periodically inspected. The general conditions were satisfactory.

Dairy Farms.

Number of Dairy Farms	19
Number of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	37
Number of inspections during the year.	12
Number of Dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers)	1

Meat and other Foods.

All meat is now coming from the central depot at Blackburn.

Bakehouses.

Six bakehouses exist and were in good condition during the year.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The agreement with Chorley Joint Hospital Board for the provision of accommodation for cases in Infectious Diseases continued. Under this agreement cases of infectious diseases are admitted to the Heath Charnock Hospital at Chorley. The Board has five beds for Small-Pox exclusively set apart for its use at the Finnington Hospital near Blackburn, and under the agreement is intended to cover the needs of the Withnell District.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in the various age-groups during 1944.

	Total cases at all ages.	Under one year.	Total cases notified. 1-2-3-4-5-10-15-20-35-45-										Total cases removed to hospital.
Scarlet Fever	6	1	2	3									4
Measles	3		3										
Whooping Cough	1		1										
Erysipelas	1							1					
TOTAL	11	1	6	3				1					4

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Urban District Council made arrangements with the local Doctors to continue the immunisation of children against Diphtheria at their Surgeries during 1944. 16 children were immunised. The table below shows the number immunised in the various age groups.

Age - Yrs.	Number of children completely immunised.
Under 2	5
3	1
4	1
5	2
6	2
7	-
8	1
9	-
10	1
11	1
12	1
13	1

Tuberculosis.

The table below shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths which occurred from the disease in the various age groups:-

AGES	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY.		NON-RESPIRATORY.		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-			1	1			1	
1-								
5-								
10-								
15-								
20-		1						
25-	1							
35-					1			
45-	1							
55-	1				1			
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	3	1	1	1	2		1	

I thank the members of the Urban District Council for their interest in matters relative to the health of the District and for their courtesy and help.

JAMES ROBERTSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

